

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 15-271

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES

**Examination of Electric Distribution Utility Interconnection and Queue
Management Processes for Net-Metered Customer-Generators**

ORDER OF NOTICE

By memorandum dated June 19, 2015, Staff of the Sustainable Energy Division of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), recommended that the Commission open an investigation or other appropriate proceeding to examine the meaning and effect of the phrase “first-come, first-served” with respect to the 50 megawatt aggregate requirement for net energy metering tariff availability under RSA 362-A:9, I. Staff noted that the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative has already exceeded its share of the statutory net metering limit, and the other utilities appeared to be approaching their respective share of the limit, based on their queued applications, due to the recent increase in proposed solar photovoltaic installations and hydroelectric plants switching to group net metering. The potential objective of this proceeding would be to develop uniform, just, and reasonable guidelines for utility management of net metering applicant queues, as well as examining interconnection requirements, to determine whether uniform interconnection queue management procedures would be useful in managing net metering applicant queues.

Having reviewed Staff’s memorandum, the Commission opens a docket, pursuant to RSA 374:4 and 374:7, to examine on a generic basis the customer-generator interconnection and net metering queue management procedures of the electric distribution utilities, and potential

modifications to these procedures to achieve uniform, just, and reasonable processing of customer-generator applications in the context of the strong and growing interest in utility net metering programs. This proceeding also will include Commission review and potential interpretation of the phrase “first come, first-served,” as used in RSA 362-A:9, I and N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 903.02(b), as well as potential changes in electric distribution utility procedures that may be warranted consistent with any such interpretation.

The proceeding shall commence with a stakeholder technical session, which will be open to participation by representatives of customer-generators, their customers and group members, renewable energy project developers, system installers, relevant trade organizations, the electric distribution utilities, and other interested persons. Participation in the initial technical session shall not make a person a full party in the proceeding.

The electric distribution utilities regulated by the Commission shall participate as mandatory parties to this proceeding. Other interested persons may seek permission to intervene, as described in the ordering paragraphs below. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party’s own expense.

This Order, the Commission Staff memorandum to which it refers, and any subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission’s website at www.puc.nh.gov.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that an initial Stakeholder Technical Session be held on July 21, 2015 at 1:30 p.m., at the offices of the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire, to review and discuss the issues raised in the proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on July 30, 2015 at 1:30 p.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to relevant matters and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

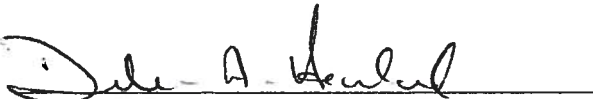
FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, the electric distribution companies, Commission Staff, and any intervenors hold a Technical Session to review relevant matters and to develop a procedural schedule for the proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, the Commission shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than July 13, 2015, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before July 28, 2015; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to the Office of the Consumer Advocate and all parties listed on the Commission's service list for this proceeding on or before July 28, 2015, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32, I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before July 30, 2015.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventh day of July,
2015.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.